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**Subject:** Daily News Digest, Monday, Sept. 11  
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**1 — Houston's Post-Harvey Toxic Mess, HUFF Post, 9/11/2017**

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/houstons-post-harvey-toxic-mess\\_us\\_59b68215e4b0bef3378ce1df](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/houstons-post-harvey-toxic-mess_us_59b68215e4b0bef3378ce1df)

With overflowing sewage, under-regulated exploding chemical plants and leaking household cleaning and gardening chemicals, some of the air and water in Texas was a toxic mess in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. The explosions of chemical tanks at the Arkema chemical plant in Crosby, Texas was no surprise. It was the predictable impact of a complex industry that EPA has been too weak to effectively regulate for years.

**2 — After 42 years, Arkansas has not carried out plan to protect state waters from degradation, Arkansas Democrat, 9/10/2017**

<http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2017/sep/10/after-42-years-state-waters-plan-unfini/>

More than 40 years after the passage of the federal Clean Water Act, Arkansas remains one of only two states that hasn't carried out the provision that protects a state's most important waters from degrading. Arkansas has not adopted an implementation plan for "anti-degradation," a major provision of the act's water quality standards that refers to the effort to stop rivers and lakes from deteriorating.

**3 — For Center for Toxicology & Environmental Health, Disasters Mean Business, Ark. Business, 9/11/2017**

<http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/article/118647/for-center-for-toxicology-environmental-health-disasters-mean-business>

Employees from the Center for Toxicology & Environmental Health LLC of North Little Rock arrived in Houston on Aug. 27, two days after Hurricane Harvey made landfall. As historic rain continued, flooding thousands of homes and businesses, the environmental consulting firm was on the scene, using its equipment to provide air monitoring and other services for the U.S. Coast Guard, said Cory Davis, a partner and principal consultant at CTEH.

**4 — Tank failures in Harvey reveal vulnerabilities in storm, KVUE, 9/11/2017**

<http://www.kvue.com/news/local/texas-news/ap-harvey-tank-failures-reveal-vulnerabilities/473337894>

More than two dozen storage tanks holding crude oil, gasoline and other contaminants ruptured or otherwise failed when Harvey slammed into the Texas coast, spilling at least 145,000 gallons (548,868 liters) of fuel and spewing toxic pollutants into the air, according to an Associated Press analysis of pollution reports submitted to state and federal regulators.

**5 — NY firefighters who helped 911 victims are in SETX helping storm victims, Fox Beaumont, 9/9/2017**

<http://fox4beaumont.com/news/local/ny-firefighters-who-helped-911-victims-are-in-setx-helping-storm-victims>

Firefighters who helped save lives following 9-11 terror attacks in New York are here in Southeast Texas helping storm victims. Some of them were in Deweyville on Sunday, helping people gut their homes after they lost everything following Tropical Storm Harvey.

**6 — EPA/TCEQ: Updated status of systems affected by Harvey, Gilmer Mirror, 9/10/2017**

[http://www.gilmermirror.com/view/full\\_story/27476825/article-EPA-TCEQ--Updated-status-of-systems-affected-by-Harvey-?instance=news\\_special\\_coverage\\_right\\_column](http://www.gilmermirror.com/view/full_story/27476825/article-EPA-TCEQ--Updated-status-of-systems-affected-by-Harvey-?instance=news_special_coverage_right_column)

Air quality improving, number of water systems operational increasing in affected areas.

Working together, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality continue to coordinate with local, state and federal officials to address the human health and environmental impacts of Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath, especially the water systems in the affected areas.

**7 — More Than 40 Sites Released Hazardous Pollutants Because of Hurricane Harvey, NY Times, 9/8/2017**

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/09/08/us/houston-hurricane-harvey-hazardous-chemicals.html?rref=collection%2Fsectioncollection%2Fclimate&r=0>

Houston's sprawling network of petrochemical plants and refineries released millions of pounds of pollutants in the days after Hurricane Harvey began barreling toward Texas. Even under normal operations, the hundreds of industrial facilities in the area can emit harmful chemicals. But from Aug. 23 to Aug. 30, 46 facilities in 13 counties reported an estimated 4.6 million pounds of airborne emissions that exceeded state limits, an analysis by the Environmental Defense Fund, Air Alliance Houston and Public Citizen shows.

**8 Mosquitoes, Medicine and Mold: Texas Battles Post-Harvey Health Issues, NBC NEWS, 9/10/17**

<https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/hurricane-harvey/mosquitoes-medicine-mold-texas-battles-post-harvey-health-issues-n799951>

Dr. Carrie de Moor has a nasty cough, and she's not sure if it's allergies or one of the common respiratory infections that have been spreading since Hurricane Harvey hit southeast Texas late last month. She's been sleeping in a trailer adjacent to her free-standing emergency room and urgent care clinic in Rockport, Texas, which was devastated by Harvey's winds and flood waters. The clinic had only been open for two weeks when Harvey hit.

**9 — Texas flood shows need for chemical safety rule, advocates say, CEN, 9/11/2017**

<http://cen.acs.org/articles/95/i36/Texas-flood-shows-need-chemical.html>

Industrial safety advocates and Texas residents say a flood-related fires and explosions at the Arkema chemical plant in Crosby, Texas, underscores the need for a worker and community safety regulation. Issued by the Obama Administration in January and blocked by the Trump Environmental Protection Agency in March, that regulation would require chemical safety improvements at industrial plants.

**10— After 42 years, Arkansas has not carried out plan to protect state waters from degradation, 9/10/2017**

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**11 Little Rock says no one has applied to use money from federal environment program, Ark. Democrat, 9/10/2017**

<http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2017/sep/10/funds-for-lr-area-cleanups-sitting-idle/>

Anyone interested in a cleanup in Pulaski County? The county has \$815,000 in funds sitting around from the federal environmental program that helped developers revitalize downtown Little Rock's Main Street. Since receiving the money last year, no one has applied to use it, said Josh Fout, the county's brownfields administrator.

### **12 Listen to veteran hurricane reporter tell how storm modeling has changed, NOLA, 9/8/2017**

[http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2017/09/this\\_weeks\\_coastal\\_news\\_vetera.html#incart\\_river\\_index](http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2017/09/this_weeks_coastal_news_vetera.html#incart_river_index)

For 2017, the National Hurricane Center predicted more than the average number of tropical cyclones. So far, it's also had three of the strongest, Harvey, Irma and Jose. One journalist who knows a lot about hurricanes is environment reporter Mark Schleifstein, who has covered tropical weather throughout his 33 years with The Times-Picayune and now NOLA.com. During that time, he has been teased by co-workers for his doomsday scenarios and been called Darth Schleffy.

### **13 Good for oil exploration, bad for whales: Seismic air guns at issue in Congress, nola.com, 9/8/2017**

[http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2017/09/seismic\\_blasting.html#incart\\_river\\_index](http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2017/09/seismic_blasting.html#incart_river_index)

Acoustic surveys for oil and gas deposits beneath the seabed are hailed as "the least intrusive way to explore the Earth's geology and its dynamic processes [that] impact human lives." So says the industry group that conducts the surveys. It offers this video to explain its work.

### **14 Mexico hit by powerful earthquake: 'The house moved like chewing gum', Nola.com, 9/8/17**

[http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2017/09/mexico\\_earthquake\\_oaxaca\\_chiap.html#incart\\_river\\_index](http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2017/09/mexico_earthquake_oaxaca_chiap.html#incart_river_index)

One of the most powerful earthquakes ever to strike Mexico has hit off its southern Pacific coast, killing at least 15 people, toppling houses and businesses and sending panicked people into the streets more than 650 miles away. The U.S. Geological Survey said the earthquake hit off Chiapas state near the Guatemalan border with a magnitude of 8.1 -- slightly stronger than the magnitude 8 quake of 1985 that killed thousands and devastated large parts of Mexico City.

### **15 Chemical Fire Burns At Flooded Arkema Plant In Crosby, Texas, 9/11/2017**

<http://deathrattlesports.com/chemical-fire-burns-at-flooded-arkema-plant-in-crosby-texas/36691>

The Arkema plant in Crosby, Texas, is northeast of Houston. The company says it received reports of two explosions at the plant in the early hours of Thursday. Later, the county's emergency and safety officials insisted that nothing at the plant had exploded and that it was containers "popping."

### **16 House rejects deeper cuts for Interior, EPA, Greenwire, 9/8/2017**

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2017/09/08/stories/1060060149>

The House this morning rejected efforts to maintain Obama-era protections related to drilling, as well as a measure that called for a 1 percent across-the-board cut to programs in fiscal 2018 spending for the Interior Department and U.S. EPA. Lawmakers have spent most of the week considering an eight-bill omnibus to fund numerous agencies (E&E Daily, Sept. 8). They will continue processing amendments related to the Interior-EPA section into next week.